

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**CUSTOMER NO. 22927**

Applicants: Walker et al.  
Application No.: 09/223,901  
Filed: December 31, 1998  
Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ENCOURAGING COMPETITIVE  
PARTICIPATION IN AN AUCTION  
Attorney Docket No. 98-084  
Confirmation No. 4361  
Examiner: Akiba K. ROBINSON -BOYCE  
Group Art Unit: 3628

**RESPONSE**  
**to the Office Action Mailed October 16, 2006**

Dear Examiner:

In response to the Office Action mailed October 16, 2006, part of Paper No. / Mail Date 20061002, consideration of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

This document is being filed by the Applicants' representative on behalf of the present Applicants for patent. Accordingly, references to "we", "us" "our" and the like all indicate the present Applicants for patent. References to "you", "your" and the like all indicate the present Examiner.